Advisory Council (EAC) had in May 2005 considered two growth forecasts of 6.7 per cent in the base case and 7.2 per cent under an improved situation for 2005-06.

(b) The EAC's base case assumes sectoral growth rate of 1.8 per cent for agriculture and allied and 7 per cent for manufacturing. The alternative scenario is based on 2.2 per cent growth in agriculture and allied activities and 8 per cent growth in manufacturing. Because of the likely normal South-West monsoon facilitating agricultural growth and based on healthy performance of the manufacturing sector and exports in the first two months higher growth is likely to materialize in 2005-06.

(c) The Government has taken a number of measures to achieve higher growth of the economy. These, *inter alia*, include emphasis on enhanced public investment, diversifying agriculture, promotion of public-private partnership for infrastructure development, liberalisation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and facilitating growth in industries and services sector through an enabling policy environment. The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan considered by the National Development Council has proposed a broad based agenda focusing on all sectors of the economy including agriculture, irrigation, rural development, infrastructure and industry. The various measures are expected to have a favourable impact on the economy.

Tax scrutiny of top hundred companies

129. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently undertaken the tax scrutiny of top one hundred companies in the country on the basis of advance tax collections due in June, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results of the exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No sir. No scrutiny of cases on the basis of advance tax collections has been undertaken by the Government. The Government has only undertaken monitoring of advance tax payments by top hundred taxpayers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to para (a) above.

Payment of income tax exceeding one crore rupees

130. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any record of the number of individuals who paid income tax exceeding rupees one crore annually during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the names of top 500 individuals who paid the highest amount of income tax during these three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of individuals who paid income tax exceeding rupees one crore as per returns filed are as under:—

Assessment Year	No. of individuals
2001-02	82
2002-03	76
2003-04	91

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

Cut in central sales tax rate

131. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to cut in the Central Sales Tax rate during fiscal year and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the revenue collection is zooming in States which have adopted the VAT and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States adopting VAT has made any claims for revenue losses and if so, the details thereof; and